

House Commerce Committee
Commerce, Rep. Andy Meisner, Chair

A smoking ban would be bad for the economy of this state and its hospitality industries. These are the industries that would suffer most from an all out ban on Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) The bottom line for economic impact is simple: smoking bans most impact businesses that serve smokers as a significant portion of their customer-base. That is why there is a common consensus among all of the combined hospitality groups represented here, that a smoking ban would negatively impact their particular type of business. This would lead to a significant loss of revenue and depending on the population of smoker to non-smoking customer; this could lead to a closing of the business. This has been the result in other states with bans. This would have a negative impact on our states economy by reducing the tax base and adding to unemployment. I am not pro smoking I am pro technology. Allow this industry some time for a natural reduction of smoking establishments and time for those that wish to accommodate smokers the opportunity to improve the indoor air quality through multiple technologies available now and still emerging. Necessity is the mother of invention and many of the businesses that are dependant upon smokers as a vital part of their continued existence have become very pro active in finding ways to accommodate their customer's tastes. Many restaurants have gone smoke free without a ban and many have made accommodations for smokers by providing designated areas that are well ventilated and filtered. Many bowling centers are offering smoke free leagues and some are voluntarily allowing smoking only in the lounge areas. Many of these designated areas are well ventilated or the proprietor is providing an air purifier to keep the air clean.

Concurrently a mandate to use a uniform public notice system so that consumers can make value-based decisions before they patronize a business where smoking is permitted should be in place. This would allow for employer to notify perspective employees of their smoking policies. That way employees could make value based decisions on whether they desire to work at a business that allows smoking. There are ample hospitality businesses in Michigan that already prohibit smoking; providing ample workplaces for those employees that do not wish to work where ETS may be present.

I represent the technology used to control indoor air quality, having spent the last twenty years in the commercial air quality business and presently operating a small assembly facility in Oakland County where we custom design air purification systems and there related products. We also represent several commercial and residential manufacturers of indoor air quality appliances through out Michigan with offices in Waterford and Grand Rapids. Some would say that not all the smoke is removed through ventilation or filtration. This is true of many things in the workplace. There are very few things that are absolute that is why the term "acceptable level" has been used. This term allows for "acceptable levels" of many things that we come in contact with in the workplace. These levels are established depending on how harmful they are. Even radioactive material has an acceptable level. Why is ETS given only a zero tolerance?

If a particular establishment wants to allow smoking that should be their choice and if an establishment wants to prohibit smoking that should be their choice also. Please allow the adults of Michigan credit for being able to make decisions on their own in regard to this issue. I submit that they are doing this without any need for legislation that would require a total ban on what is otherwise a legal product in this state. This issue is taking care of its self in our state without the cost of implementation and enforcement. Where will the extra money needed to enforce this law come from? If health inspectors are responsible wouldn't this put even a larger burden on local and county government? Fines would be difficult to collect, a prime example of civil disobedience that would surely be the ultimate result of an all out ban.

Sincerely, Dale E. Dillard, President
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